GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6704
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2000
CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference on nutrition has been convened in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to tackle the menace of malnutrition amongst poorer sections of society;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) & (b): The VIth Annual Conference of Indian Society of Parenternal and Enternal Nutrition (ISPEN) Delhi in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Nutrition Support system, New Delhi was organised on 14-15th March, 2000 at New Delhi.

(c) to (e): Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 which advocated a multi-sectoral approachfor controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving nutrition of the people. The National Nutrition Policy contains both short term/direct interventions and long-term/indirect interventions. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition was developed to serve as a framework for translating the instruments of Nutrition Policy. This Plan identified the role of 14 Departments/Ministries of the Government towards nutrition promotion.

Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population especially of the poor are:

Increased agricultural production; Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes; Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system; Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding; Supplementary feeding programmes viz. (I) integrated child development services (ICDS) scheme,
(ii) special nutrition programme (SNP);
(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP),
(iv) wheat based supplementary nutrition programme;
(v) mid-day meal programme etc.

In addition, programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin `A` deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Pilot Project for control of micro nutrient malnutrition are also under implementation.